

**Testimony of State Representative
Steve Wieckert**

**Assembly Bill 227 – Home Builder Continuing
Education Bill**

*Assembly Committee on Housing
400 Northeast – May 3, 2007*

Good morning Vice Chairman Roger Roth and committee members. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 227, which clarifies and simplifies home builder continuing education credit requirements.

Currently, it is required by law that a building contractor may not obtain a building permit unless he/she has completed certain continuing education requirements. One of the requirements of current law is that the builder must complete at least 6 hours of continuing education classes each year.

This bill would change the continuing education requirements to a minimum of 12 hours to be completed every two years to maintain certification. The continuing education credits are necessary and beneficial in helping home builders keep up to date on the latest industry practices. This change is consistent with other credential requirements for builders, which renew on a two, three, or four year basis.

The purpose of this bill is to avoid confusion and large amounts of excessive paperwork that would be burdensome for both the Department of Commerce and people who work in the building industry. The bill does not reduce the continuing education requirement; it simply makes it consistent with the other Department of Commerce standards for the building industry.

This bill is supported by the Wisconsin Builders Association and the Wisconsin Housing Alliance.

Thank you for your consideration. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions of the committee.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Representative Steve Wieckert
FROM: Tim Semmann, Jerry Deschane
DATE: February 28, 2007
RE: Builder education corrective legislation

We have reviewed the draft LRB 1730/1, which corrects Wisconsin law relative to the renewal of builder education requirements. The draft is consistent with the intent of requiring two-year, instead of annual, recertification. We request that the bill be circulated and introduced, and we thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Current law requires annual re-certification of building contractors. This is not consistent with other departmental credentials, which renew on a two-, three-, or four-year basis. The added paperwork would be a burden for both the department and the building industry. The change would allow renewal on a two-year basis.

The rules implementing this law become effective July 1 of this year. In order to avoid the confusion of changing rules, we would hope this simple change could be considered and passed by the Legislature this spring.

If you need additional information, please feel free to give us a call at 1-888-285-9066, ext. 18, fax 608-242-5150, or email tsemmann@wisbuild.org.



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JULIE LASSA

STATE SENATOR

ASSEMBLY BILL 227 TESTIMONY

Home Builder Continuing Education Bill

Committee Housing

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Chairman Wieckert and committee members - thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you today on Assembly Bill 227.

Assembly Bill 227 is a simple piece of legislation that the Wisconsin Builders Association requested Representative Wieckert and me to draft. Simply, it modifies current law to require that building contractors complete continuing education classes every two years instead of annually.

Current law requires that a building contractor may not obtain a building permit unless he/she has completed certain continuing education requirements. One of the requirements of current law is that the builder must complete at least six hours of continuing education classes each year.

Assembly Bill 227 would change the continuing education requirements to a minimum of 12 hours to be completed every two years to maintain certification. This change is consistent with other credential requirements, which renew on a two, three, and four year basis.

I authored this legislation to assist the building industry in streamlining excessive paperwork that is burdensome both to them and the Department of Commerce. It is my hope that through passage of Assembly Bill 227, continuing education requirements will be consistent with the other Department of Commerce standards for the building industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. I am happy to try to answer any questions that you may have.